THE EMRC CIRCULAR

EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL
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Front cover: A panoramic view of the EMRC’s Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park

1. Message from EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler

Welcome to the final EMRC Circular of 2021!

As we look back on the last 12 months it's clear that we have continued to make strong progress, building on the strategies put in place in 2019. The EMRC Scorecard on page 2, listing eight key metrics, is a great snapshot of how far we've come together since then, for the benefit of our people, our member Councils, our stakeholders and of course the communities we serve.

For 2022, we're seeing an emerging trend of a collaborative approach by federal, state and local governments, and local communities. Environmental, social, government strategies - ESGs - are providing a new framework for setting and tracking common objectives and outcomes. This is an exciting new development and we'll be hearing a lot more about the EMRC's participation in ESGs in the coming months.

After the local government elections in October, the EMRC welcomed a new Chairman, Cr Mel Congerton, and Deputy Chairman Cr Dylan O'Connor. Together they bring a wealth of experience and wisdom to the EMRC and we look forward to working with them and our Councillors to achieve our goals.

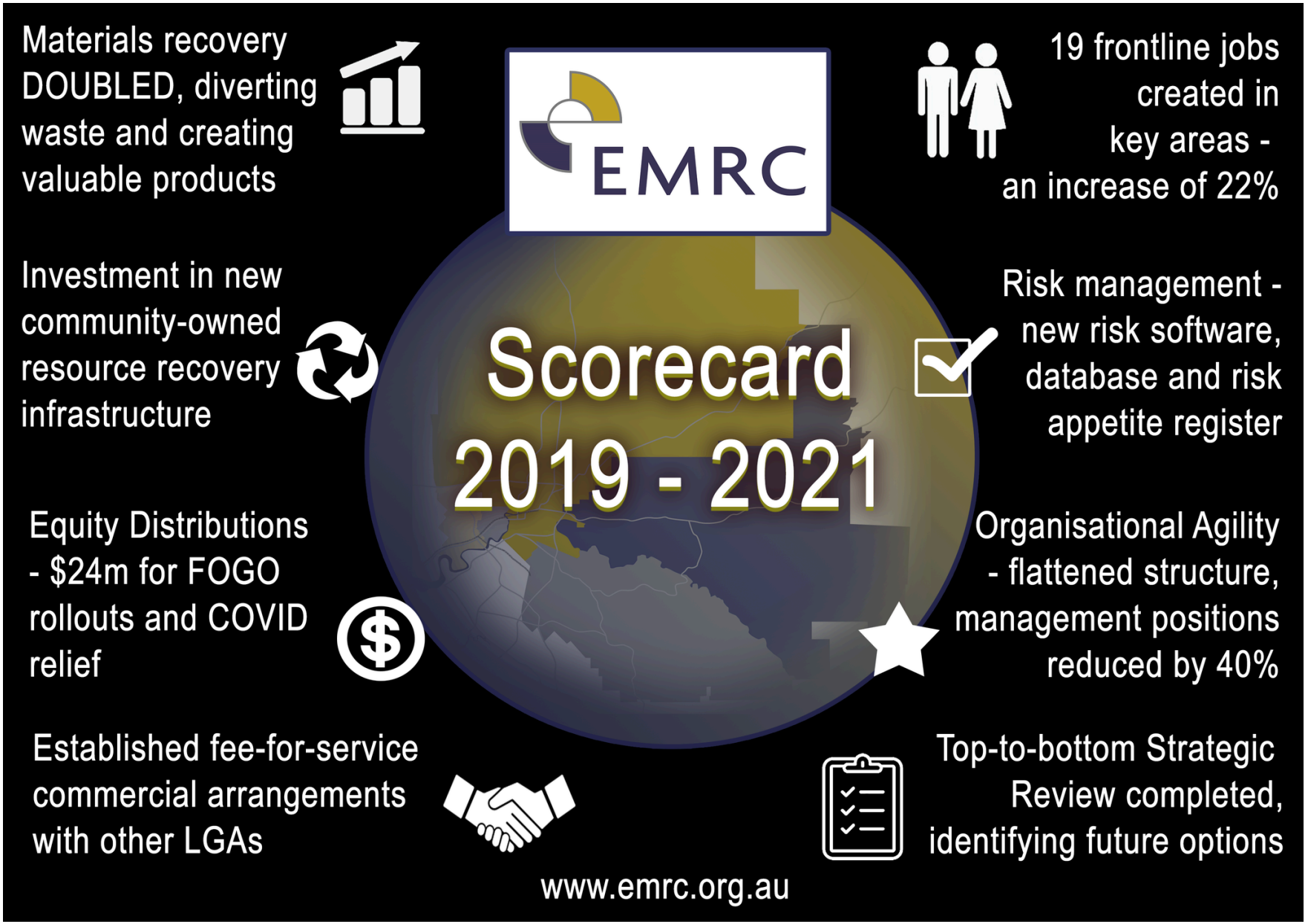
I am pleased to report that 2021 was another outstanding year for safety at the EMRC's facilities. This is a magnificent tribute to everyone's care and vigilance. We will continue to place safety at the forefront of everything we do for the protection of our staff, contractors and site visitors.

There is much more to be positive about in 2022 and looking forward to continuing the journey along our chosen pathway and achieving positive results in everything we do.

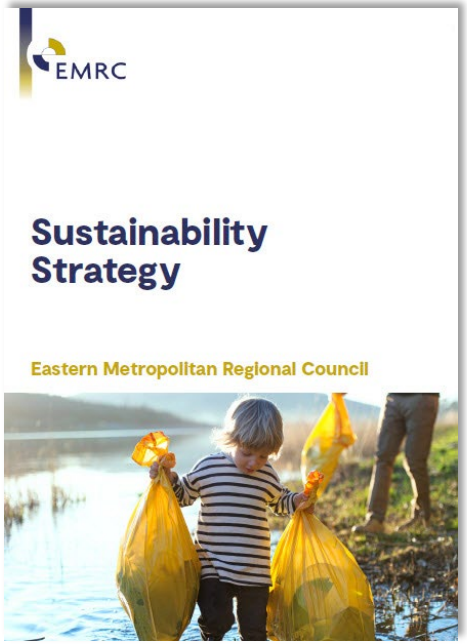
Finally, I would like to wish all our people, our Councillors and our stakeholders a very happy Christmas and New Year break. The EMRC team looks forward to making 2022 a year of continued outstanding success.

Marcus Geisler
EMRC Chief Executive Officer

2. EMRC Scorecard 2019-2021


Materials recovery DOUBLED, diverting waste and creating valuable products
EMRC
19 frontline jobs created in key areas - an increase of 22%
Investment in new community-owned resource recovery infrastructure
Scorecard 2019 - 2021
Risk management - new risk software, database and risk appetite register
Equity Distributions - $24m for FOGO rollouts and COVID relief
Organisational Agility - flattened structure, management positions reduced by 40%
Established fee-for-service commercial arrangements with other LGAs
Top-to-bottom Strategic Review completed, identifying future options
www.emrc.org.au

3. Far-reaching Sustainability sets out future pathways: 'Think Forward, Act Now!'



Alignment with both the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the recent EMRC Strategic Review are the key drivers behind the EMRC's newly-unveiled Sustainability Strategy.

The Strategy, presented to the EMRC Council at its November meeting, is structured to enable the EMRC to meet the needs of member Councils while providing sustainable solutions for future generations.

To begin the process, key EMRC leaders and stakeholders identified five areas of influence which align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of the 17 global SDGs, five are areas in which the EMRC can make a positive contribution to the long-term sustainability of Perth's Eastern Region.

The wheel above represents each of the 17 colour-coded SDGs

The EMRC's five SDGs are:

- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Partnerships for the Goals

2 ZERO HUNGER
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Strategy's Action Plan identifies four goals which will be used to develop specific objectives and targets for measurement of performance:

- Demonstrate Circular Economy leadership
- Reduce our environmental impact
- Respond to a climate emergency
- Create value in the community

The four goals together create a mix of the EMRC's experience, forward thinking, risk management and project management expertise which in turn will support the Sustainability Strategy's implementation.

Chief Sustainability Officer Wendy Harris said, 'Sustainability is a core to the EMRC's operation and through this Strategy, we will continue to move forward as a leader in community change and action.'

The EMRC Sustainability Strategy represents a great step forward on the EMRC's journey towards a sustainable future…and is a worthy winner of this issue's Circular Economy In Action Award!

4. City of Bayswater celebrates ‘The year of FOGO’

City of Baywater Cr Giorgia Johnson with EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility viewing the City’s FOGO compost.

Three cheers for householders in the City of Bayswater, who have collected 7,000 tonnes of organics since the City’s rollout of the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bin system in March 2021.

Contents of the City’s FOGO bins are processed at the EMRC Red Hill Waste Management Facility and turned into compost – preventing the loss of the material’s value to the economy and helping protect the environment by reducing landfill.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said, ‘The City’s residents have made a remarkable contribution towards sorting their waste and doing their part to reduce the amount of material being sent to landfill.’

City of Bayswater Mayor Cr Filomena Piffaretti said the results were a promising start to the City’s waste minimisation journey.

‘Before introducing the FOGO three bin system last year, around 85% of household waste collected from red-lidded general waste bins and green-lidded garden waste bins, was general waste. Now, only 45 per cent of household waste is general waste that is placed in the red-lidded bin.

‘We would like to thank the community for adapting so quickly to the new system, and for diligently separating their waste correctly. It’s important we keep contamination rates at processing facilities low, to ensure waste can be reused and recycled, avoiding landfill wherever possible.’

Results from the City’s annual Customer Perception Survey showed the community was happy with the smoothness of the transition to the new bin system earlier this year. Results showed more than 85% of people were satisfied with the information they received about how FOGO works, materials supplied and the frequency of bin collection.

5. Towards Net Zero - EMRC targets 100% renewable energy by December 2022

A milestone agreement at the 25 November 2021 Council meeting saw the EMRC joining 48 other WA local governments in signing up to the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) renewable energy agreement.

The move means that from 1 December 2022, all EMRC sites including the Ascot administration office, Red Hill Waste Management Facility and Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park will be supplied with electricity from 100% renewable sources.

Negotiated by WALGA, the new aggregated agreement, authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), is the largest of its kind undertaken in Australia. The initiative will supply renewable energy accessed from WA's Albany, Emu Downs and Collgar wind farms.

The agreement will greatly assist the EMRC in achieving below zero emissions by 2040. The total annual emission reduction is approximately 770 t CO_2-e per year, which equates to approximately a 73% reduction at the Ascot administration office and 62% at the Hazelmere Resource Recovery Centre.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said, 'WALGA deserves congratulations for its far-sightedness in bringing over 40 WA local governments closer to the goal of net zero emissions. I am pleased that the agreement aligns with our recent Strategic Review and the new EMRC Sustainability Strategy with decarbonisation and Net Zero one of three key areas.'

He continued, 'The EMRC will continue to accelerate improving the energy efficiency of our facilities and investigate additional actions to reduce emissions from fleet vehicles, machinery and other fossil fuel uses, replacing them with renewable sources.'

Western Australian wind farms at (left to right) Albany, Emu Downs and Collgar

6. 2021 Community Grants Program hits the spot

Paintballers, Scouts, a cycling group and Gidgegannup Primary School are among a record number of successful applicants for the EMRC 2021 Community Grants Program, who received their grants at the EMRC's Red Hill Waste Management Facility on 30 November 2021.

The EMRC is an active supporter of communities neighbouring Red Hill, supporting groups with grants of up to $3,000 for projects benefiting the Gidgegannup, Hovea, Parkerville and/or Stoneville communities.

A simplified application process introduced last year has encouraged more applications and resulted in a greater number of community groups benefiting from the program, up from six in 2020 to seven in 2021.

This year's successful community groups are:

Community Group	*Funds will be used for*
X Speed Australia Cycle Club	Road Safety Equipment
Gidgegannup Primary School P&C Association	Outdoor lunch tables
Gidgegannup Scout Group	Camping equipment
Silvertree Steiner Group	Worm farm shelter
Gidgegannup Recreation Club	Indoor bowling equipment
Perth Hills Paintball Association	Solar powered lighting at practice ground
Stoneville-Parkerville Progress Association	Water tank for outdoor community amenity areas

Successful applicants from the 2021 Community Grants Program with (left) EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler, (third left) EMRC Chief Financial Officer Hua Jer Liew and (fourth left) EMRC Chairman Cr Mel Congerton.

EMRC Chairman Cr Mel Congerton congratulated representatives from the successful community groups.

Cr Congerton said, 'Since the EMRC's Community Grants Program began nearly 20 years ago in 2002, the EMRC has supported a range of community-based groups who deliver a wide range of initiatives that help develop the recreational, social, cultural and sustainability needs of neighbouring communities. I'm very pleased to report that this year we have seven successful applicants who will share in the $15,000 made available in the Program.'

He continued, 'I am extremely proud to be able to celebrate the success of this year's grants and to congratulate representatives of the successful community groups in person.'

For more information on EMRC's Community Grants Program visit https://www.emrc.org.au/about-us/emrc-community-grants-program.aspx

7. Engineers Australia accolade for EMRC Chief Project Officer Doug Bruce

Hearty congratulations to EMRC Chief Project Officer Doug Bruce, Chairman of Engineers Australia's Student Practicum Working Group, for the group award of a prestigious Engineers Australia Medal at the Celebration of Outstanding West Australian Engineers held on 8 December 2021.

The Engineers Australia medal is awarded for meritorious service to Engineers Australia Western Australian division as well as for work achieved in the community.

The Working Group, comprising representatives from tertiary institutions including students and industry representatives, undertook research into the challenges students, industry employers and supervisors face in hosting student work placements. The group also contributed to an update of the EA guideline 'Providing Work Experience to Engineering Students' and received praise for providing valuable insights into the relationships between universities, industry, and accreditation of courses. Members also compiled detailed information of the challenges students face in attaining work placements.

Commented Doug, pictured top left, 'The award came as a complete surprise and is a tribute to a huge team effort.'

8. Circular Economy hub gets into gear

A group of WA entities and individuals with a strong focus on knowledge-sharing have joined forces to create a Circular Economy Hub - Circular Economy Western Australia (CEWA) for industry professionals, groups, individuals and organisations wishing to start or advance their circular economy journey.

The CEWA Hub is committed to catalysing and enabling Western Australians to connect, be informed and take action to achieve a net zero circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected. EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler, a hub co-founder said 'The Circular Economy is all about the destination and we welcome everybody on board the Circular Economy Western Australia train. The first stop is a Circular Economy Roadmap for WA. 'This means transitioning from the current take-make-use and disposal approach to one based on material efficiency, which aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value for as long as possible. Circularity of materials support social and environmental outcomes as well as building sustainable economic models and opportunities.'

The founding members of CEWA, actively working towards a circular economy include the EMRC, strategic consultants GHD, Holonic, Ringvall Circularity, RMIT University and Circular Economy Victoria (CEV).

For more information visit www.cewa.com.au or follow CEWA on LinkedIn and Facebook.

9. WasteSorted grant to help spread the recycling message

The EMRC is one of 21 diverse organisations sharing $1.4m for waste avoidance and education programs.

The funding has been made available through the Waste Authority to regional and local governments, charitable and not-for-profit businesses, peak industry bodies and research organisations. The EMRC's grant will help fund workshops and events that target minimisation of food waste, single-use plastics and textiles, and will provide the community with a personal and pragmatic approach to circularity.

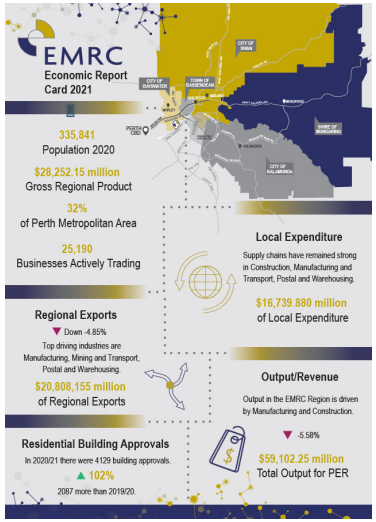
Since 2017, the State Government has made $6m available in grants for WA projects which improve the recovery and reuse of materials including plastics, textiles and food waste.

EMRC CEO Marcus Geisler said, 'We are delighted to be recognised for the significant role the EMRC is playing in reducing landfill, protecting the environment and catalysing circular economy principles to Perth's Eastern Region.'

He added, 'The award of this grant will greatly assist the EMRC in spreading the word about the benefits of waste recovery, recycling and reusing in the community.'

Two of the EMRC's member Councils – the City of Kalamunda and the City of Bayswater – were also awarded WasteSorted funding for a cardboard compactor and an innovative Cloth Nappy Rebate respectively.

10. Economic Report Card provides a snapshot of a vibrant region



Despite a dramatic decline in both international and interstate air passenger traffic, Perth's Eastern Region retains its crown as an economic hotspot, according to a new EMRC report.

The Economic Report Card measures performance against a number of metrics, including population growth, number of active businesses and employment rates. One of the most eye-catching trends is the region's building approvals, which shot up from 2,087 in 2019/2020 to 4,129 in 2020/2021 – a surge of 102%.

EMRC Chief Sustainability Officer Wendy Harris commented, 'The Economic Report Card plays an important role in our coordinated regional research, aimed at identifying current industry clusters, supply chains and investigating opportunities and constraints that businesses within the Region are facing.'

To view economic statistics for Perth's Eastern Region including individual member Councils, visit http://www.communityprofile.com.au/easternmetro.

11. 2022 EMRC Council, Agenda Briefing Forum and Audit Committee meeting dates

EMRC Council, Agenda Briefing Forum and Audit Committee meeting dates for 2022 are as follows.

Ordinary Council Meetings commence at 6:00pm and are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from February to November.

Thursday	24 February 2022		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	24 March 2022		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	28 April 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	26 May 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	23 June 2022		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	28 July 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	25 August 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	22 September 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	27 October 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	24 November 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office

Agenda Briefing Forums commence at 6:00pm and are held on the second Thursday of each month from February to November.

Thursday	10 February 2022		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 March 2022		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	21 April 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	12 May 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	9 June 2022		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	14 July 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	11 August 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	8 September 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	13 October 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	10 November 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office

Information Sessions follow Agenda Briefing Forums.

Audit Committee Meetings commence at 6:00pm and are generally held on the first Thursday of each month from March to November.

Thursday	3 March 2022		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 April 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	5 May 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	2 June 2022		at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	7 July 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	4 August 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	1 September 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	6 October 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Thursday	3 November 2022	(if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office

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